

Grimischevski HB5740

We are Masters Level Social Worker students in our final year at the Springfield College School of Social Work. We are currently conducting extensive research on policy surrounding School Based Health Centers (SBHC), in Connecticut. We are struck by the benefits offered to student where a (SBHC) is located. Empirical data suggests that children who receive preventative health care are better learned. According to the Connecticut Commission on Children, 2009 report on Child Poverty, Child poverty in CT has not improved in recent years. According to the U.S. Census Bureau. The report further indicates that one in four (25.1%) of CT children lived in a household with income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level in 2007. Children living in poverty are unevenly distributed across CT's 169 towns. Empirical evidence suggests that children who live in poverty are exposed to an increase level of trauma. Trauma leads to a host of emotional and behavioral problems. These are just a few of the reasons why investing in uniform standards and the provision of mental health services in (SBHC) will allow the state to continue moving forward in improving children's health. We are not only students, we are community members and tax payers. We work for a state that boasts great wealth as such we strongly believe that the resources needed to keep CT's children healthy is everyone's responsibility. Healthy children make better students with a higher chance for academic success and a chance at a higher socioeconomic status. We urge that provisions are made to not only standardized but to increase mental health services in (SBHC).

Respectfully,

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Sent from my iPad